

AUG 20 2004

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Date: August 20, 2004

By

Aida Martinez

PATENT
Docket No. GC627-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)

Diaz-Torres *et al.*)

Serial No.: 09/927,161)

Filed: August 10, 2001)

For: *Bacillus* Transformation, Transformants)
and Mutant Libraries)

Group Art Unit: 1639

Examiner: Shibuya, Mark

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 27, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed July 27, 2004, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be made. As this Response is being filed within two months of the mailing of the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an Advisory Action. A complete list of the Claims, including marked-up versions of the rewritten, added, and/or cancelled claims is provided below, beginning on page 2. None of the amendments to the Claims is intended to narrow the scope of any of the amended Claims within the meaning of *Festo*¹. The Remarks begin on page 4, and the Conclusion is on page 7.

¹ *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, No. 95-1066, 2000 WL 1753646 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).